

In the Claims:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c) and the revised amendment practice effective July 30, 2003, please add new claims 35-39 as follows. A complete listing of all the claims in the application is provided immediately below.

COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS IN THE APPLICATION

1. (previously presented) A ferrule comprising:
at least one optical fiber bore associated with a front surface and a rear surface of said ferrule; and
first and second body portions extending at least partially between said surfaces and having respective widths, a juncture of said body portions comprising an interface in the form of a parting line on an exterior surface of the ferrule, said parting line extending longitudinally over a majority of the ferrule between said front surface and said rear surface, and said parting line defining an offset of at least about 50 microns between said first and second body portions.
2. (original) A ferrule according to Claim 1 wherein the width of said first ferrule body portion is defined to within a first tolerance, and wherein the width of said second ferrule body portion is defined to within a second tolerance that is larger than the first tolerance.
3. (original) A ferrule according to Claim 2 wherein the second tolerance of said second ferrule body portion is at least two times larger than the first tolerance of said first ferrule body portion.
4. (original) A ferrule according to Claim 2 wherein said first and second ferrule body portions are capable of being offset in a widthwise direction by up to a maximum offset, and wherein the first width of said first ferrule body portion is larger than the second width of said second ferrule body portion by at least the sum of the first tolerance, the second tolerance, and two times the maximum offset between said first and second ferrule body portions.

5. (previously presented) A ferrule according to Claim 1, said parting line comprising a ledge.

6. (previously presented) A ferrule according to Claim 1, said ferrule comprising multiple bores and defining a multifiber ferrule.

7.-16. (canceled)

17. (previously presented) A ferrule comprising:
at least one optical fiber bore; and

first and second ferrule body portions joined along a parting line, said first ferrule body portion having a first width and said second ferrule body portion having a second width that is smaller than the first width by at least about 50 microns, the width of said first ferrule body portion is defined to within a first tolerance, and the width of said second ferrule body portion is defined to within a second tolerance that is larger than the first tolerance.

18. (previously presented) A ferrule comprising:
at least one optical fiber bore extending from a front surface to a rear surface of said ferrule;
a shaft portion defining exterior surfaces of said ferrule, said exterior surfaces at least partially extending longitudinally between said front and rear surfaces; and
a width transition, said width transition extending longitudinally along a majority of said exterior surfaces of said ferrule shaft portion, said width transition comprising a width offset.

19. (previously presented) A ferrule comprising:
at least one optical fiber bore extending from a front surface to a rear surface of said ferrule;
a shaft portion, said shaft portion comprising at least two exterior surfaces extending at least partially between said front surface and said rear surface, said at least two exterior surfaces

comprising respective widths, the width of one of said surfaces being defined to within a first tolerance, and the width of the other of said at least two surfaces being defined to within a second tolerance that is larger than the first tolerance.

20. (previously presented) A ferrule comprising:
at least one optical fiber bore extending from a front surface to a rear surface of said ferrule; and
monolithically formed first and second body portions, an exterior surface of the first body portion defined to within a first tolerance, and an exterior surface of the second body portion defined to within a second tolerance that is larger than the first tolerance.

21. (previously presented) A ferrule according to Claim 18 wherein the width transition is formed by a first ferrule body portion and a second ferrule body portion, the first body portion being defined to within a first tolerance, and the second body portion being defined to within a second tolerance that is larger than the first tolerance.

22. (previously presented) A ferrule according to Claim 21 wherein the second tolerance of said second ferrule body portion is at least two times larger than the first tolerance of said first ferrule body portion.

23. (previously presented) A ferrule according to Claim 18 wherein the width transition is formed by a first ferrule body portion and a second ferrule body portion, the first and second body portions cooperate to define a ledge.

24. (previously presented) A ferrule according to Claim 18 wherein the ferrule is a multifiber ferrule.

25. (previously presented) A ferrule according to Claim 17 wherein the second tolerance of said second ferrule body portion is at least two times larger than the first tolerance of said first ferrule body portion.

26. (previously presented) A ferrule according to Claim 25 wherein said first and second ferrule body portions are capable of being offset in a widthwise direction by up to a maximum offset, and wherein the first width of said first ferrule body portion is larger than the second width of said second ferrule body portion by at least the sum of the first tolerance, the second tolerance, and two times the maximum offset between said first and second ferrule body portions.
27. (previously presented) A ferrule according to Claim 17 wherein the first and second ferrule body portions cooperate to define a ledge.
28. (previously presented) A ferrule according to Claim 17 wherein the ferrule is a multifiber ferrule.
29. (previously presented) A ferrule according to Claim 19 wherein the second tolerance is at least two times larger than the first tolerance.
30. (previously presented) A ferrule according to Claim 19 wherein the two exterior surfaces cooperate to define a ledge.
31. (previously presented) A ferrule according to Claim 19 wherein the ferrule is a multifiber ferrule.
32. (previously presented) A ferrule according to Claim 20 wherein the second tolerance is at least two times larger than the first tolerance.
33. (previously presented) A ferrule according to Claim 20 wherein the first and second body portions cooperate to define a ledge.
34. (previously presented) A ferrule according to Claim 20 wherein the ferrule is a

multifiber ferrule.

35. (new) A ferrule comprising:
a first body portion and a second body portion joined along a parting line that extends lengthwise between a front surface and an opposed rear surface; and
at least one optical fiber bore extending lengthwise between the front surface and the rear surface;
wherein the first body portion has a first width and the second body portion has a second width different than the first width such that the parting line comprises a ledge that extends in the lengthwise direction over a majority of the length of the ferrule between the front surface and the rear surface.

36. (new) A ferrule according to Claim 35 wherein the first body portion and the second body portion cooperate to form a lengthwise extending shaft portion and a lengthwise extending rear portion that is enlarged relative to the shaft portion such that a shoulder is defined between the rear portion and the shaft portion.

37. (new) A ferrule according to Claim 35 wherein the first width of the first body portion is defined to within a first tolerance and the second width of the second body portion is defined to within a second tolerance that is larger than the first tolerance.

38. (new) A ferrule according to Claim 37
wherein the first body portion and the second body portion are capable of being offset in a widthwise direction by up to a maximum offset; and
wherein the first width of the first body portion is larger than the second width of the second body portion by at least the sum of the first tolerance, the second tolerance, and two times the maximum offset between the first body portion and the second body portion.

39. (new) A ferrule according to Claim 35 wherein the ferrule is a multifiber ferrule.